

- 1       1. An apparatus comprising:
- 2       a) a first add/drop multiplexor comprising:
- 3           i) a first input for receiving a first signal from a first node,
- 4           ii) a first output for transmitting a second signal to a second node,
- 5           iii) a second input for receiving a third signal from a first output of a second add/drop
- 6           multiplexor, and
- 7           iv) a second output for transmitting a fourth signal to a first input of said second add/drop
- 8           multiplexor; and
- 9       b) said second add/drop multiplexor comprising:
- 10          i) said first input for receiving said fourth signal from said second output of said first
- 11          add/drop multiplexor,
- 12          ii) said first output for transmitting said third signal to said second input of said first add/drop
- 13          multiplexor,
- 14          iii) a second input for receiving a fifth signal from said second node, and
- 15          iv) a second output for transmitting a sixth signal to said first node.
- 1       2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first node is a SONET/SDH node and said first
- 2       signal is a series of SONET/SDH frames.